THE

N.Z. HONEYBEE

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BEEKEEPERS

EDITOR-MANAGER . . . . P. A. HILLARY

The ORGAN for Official Advertisements of:
N.Z. Honey Control Board
National Beekeepers' Assn.
N.Z. Honey Ltd.

ISSUED on 20th of Each Month
Subscription: 3/6, post free.
The Only Beekeeping Journal Published in New Zealand.

VOL. I., No. 7. FEBRUARY 20, 1938. PRICE 4d.

Organisation of Honey Market

Government Action Taken

Plans for the control of honey supplies in the Dominion in order to establish a system of orderly marketing have been announced by the Minister of Marketing, the Hon. W. Nash. As part of the scheme the Government has acquired the co-operative organisation known as New Zealand Honey, Limited, of Auckland, which will now be operated by the Internal Marketing Department. The Minister emphasised that there would be no interference with recognised trade channels as a result of the inauguration of this scheme.

"During the past few months," said Mr. Nash, "there has been a strong agitation on the part of beekeepers throughout New Zealand urging the Government to provide some form of assistance for the marketing of their product both in New Zealand and overseas."

Mr. Nash pointed out the tremendous variation which takes place in the production of honey from year to year. For instance, he said, last season's honey crop was one of the poorest they had yet had in New Zealand, resulting in the English market being practically starved of supplies, while prices on the local market rose to a level which made honey almost a luxury line.

"This season beekeepers have not been slow to appreciate the fact that the honey crop is going to be a heavy one, and unco-ordinated producers selling at random throughout the country would certainly have an effect that would add considerably to their worries and multiply the losses resulting from last season's very short production," continued the Minister.

Security for Beekeepers

"Accordingly, the Internal Marketing Department has been concentrating on a scheme that will give some measure of security to commercial beekeepers, and it is now proposed that the Department will offer an advance of 4½d a pound, pro rata, according to grade. Suppliers wishing to obtain this advance can forward their supplies to the grading stores at New Plymouth, Wellington, Lyttelton, Smithfield, Dunedin, Bluff and Auckland, or to the premises now occupied by New Zealand Honey, Limited, at Auckland."

The Minister further pointed out that this advance figure should not be looked upon by the industry as a final payment, because it was expected that as a result of the activities of the Internal Marketing Division beekeepers would obtain an additional payment on finalisation of sales.

"As a result of negotiations carried out by the Director of Internal Marketing," said Mr. Nash, "arrangements have now been made for the taking over of the equipment, blending plant and staff of the producers' co-operative organisation hitherto known as New Zealand Honey, Limited, and this business will now be operated through the Internal Marketing Department for the collection, blending and packing of honey for sale to the local trade, and for the arrangements of bulk export overseas through the established channels."

Mirror Controls Swarms

Flashing a mirror in the sun and directing the reflection on swarming bees causes them to cluster. I have used a mirror many times and it has never failed. I have moved a clustered swarm from a tree top and caused it to cluster low down by this method.—Gleanings.

Notes by the Editor

To Our Readers

There are many of our readers who are desirous of becoming subscribers to the N.Z. Honeybee, but who have been too busy during the season to give attention to the matter. Perhaps time will be found, now that the pressure of work is easing up, to secure a postal note for the subscription and send it along. Many beekeepers throughout New Zealand have not yet seen a copy of this Journal, and next month we shall cease sending free copies to 1,000 of our readers and forward these copies to new readers who have not yet received the Journal. This is our practice every three months, and thus we hope to reach every beekeeper in the Dominion with the Journal.

We wish to express our appreciation of the help given by many well-wishers, some of whom were so good as to secure subscribers and forward the subscriptions to us. Others have helped us considerably with news items, and yet others have given us encouragement by letters of kindly appreciation.

Now that the Internal Marketing Department has taken control of the marketing of honey, this Journal should serve a further valuable purpose in giving its readers the fullest information regarding the intentions of the Department and the measures they decide upon to put their policy into operation.

Assistant-Director Appointed

The appointment of Mr. E. J. Fawcett, M.A. (Cambridge), to the position of Assistant-Director General of Agriculture has been announced. Mr. Fawcett, who was born in Nelson, had had practical farming experience before the war. He saw active service overseas, gained the Military Cross, and when discharged held the rank of captain. Being awarded the Kitchener Memorial Scholarship, he entered Cambridge University where three years were spent specialising in agriculture and economics. Mr. Fawcett returned to the Dominion in 1922 and has since been in the service of the Department of Agriculture. Many beekeepers have made the acquaintance of Mr. Fawcett, and have been impressed by his knowledge of the industry's problems. The beekeepers of New Zealand are fortunate in the adding of yet another to the able officers of the Department who have given to the beekeeping industry every sympathy and consideration possible, and who have built it from insignificant proportions into one of fairly substantial importance.

Passing of Well-known Beekeeper

We regret to record the recent death of Mr. J. Schmidt, of Turua, Waikato, a beekeeper of many years standing who had about 1,200 colonies of bees on the Hauraki Plains. Mr. Schmidt was well-known throughout the Dominion through his attendance at Conferences, and his activities at those gatherings. He was an active member of the South Auckland Branch of the National and regularly travelled 80 miles to attend meetings in Hamilton. He will be greatly missed by his many friends, and their sympathy is extended to the bereaved family.

Danger to Health

The extreme consumption of cane sugar in New Zealand is a definite danger to the health of the people, especially that of the younger generation. Mr. R. G. Casey, Australian Federal Treasurer, at the recent International Sugar Conference at London, stated that while New Zealand consumed 119lb. per head of population, Australia 112.21lb., and Britain 107.58lb., Germany consumed only 52.23lb., Czechoslovakia 55.10lb., Hungary 23.80lb., Poland 22.26lb. and Belgium 22.15lb. The effect on the human body of the excessive consumption of sugar is terribly sure and inevitable. Beekeepers should use as much honey as possible in their own households especially where children are concerned. Fruit bottled with honey is delicious; cakes taste better and keep longer, but the best grade honey only should be used. In recipes where honey is substituted for sugar, 50 per cent. more honey should be used than the stated amount of sugar, and a little less milk to allow for the water content of the honey. At the breakfast table it should be every beekeeper's motto: "Start the day, the HONEY way." Sugar should be banished from the day's first meal.

"Weather very dry. It has been one of the longest honey flows I have ever seen; although it has not been very heavy, it will make a good season by the time it is finished. Unfortunately, with the light flow the bees have been working the ragwort and this will spoil the honey considerably."—R.C., Mataura.

News of General Interest

A Tribute to Control

Mr. J. A. Lawson, F.E.S., in "Honeycraft," stated that "Had our own Agricultural Board been able and willing to organise and render assistance in one-half the measure that the New Zealand Government has done by its Acts and Regulations dating from the "Apiaries Act of 1908," the craft (in England) would not have been in the main a mere hobby, and the acarine plague a wide-spread calamity. As it is, the individual honey producer in England has to face the competition of a world-wide State-controlled and directed combination which, by persistent advertising and guaranteed excellence of its produce, has rightly gained the public confidence."

New Insurance Scheme

After considerable work, the Insurance Committee of the "National," comprising Messrs. T. Pearson and A. H. Davies, of Hamilton, have perfected an insurance scheme that should appeal to every beekeeper in the Dominion. The amount of claims may reach £1,000 in any one year, and £250 in respect of any one accident. The premium is so extremely low as to be negligible, being only 1/6 per apiary per annum.

The insurance covers injury to any person or property (including horses and livestock), caused by the insurer's bees, or in or about insurer's apiary, or his premises, or by his fault or that of his staff. A beekeeper's own staff is not covered. This insurance is only available to members of the National Beekeepers' Association, membership of which is available to all beekeepers —the minimum member's fee being 5/- per annum for those owning from 1 to 15 colonies. The members of the Special Insurance Committee are to be congratulated upon the excellent result of their trying and responsible task.

Full details may be obtained regarding the scheme, etc., from the General Secretary, J. R. P. Madoc, 8 Cameron Street, Timaru.

LITERARY NOTICE

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS for the N.Z. HONEYBEE must be posted to arrive at the address below by the 7th of each month, and copy of ADVERTISEMENTS to arrive by the 10th of each month.

THE N.Z. HONEYBEE,
208 Remuera Road,
AUCKLAND S.E.2

South Island Field Day

The combined field-day of the West Otago and Gore Branches was held at Mr. Jas. Steel's Apiary. McNab, on Saturday, January 29th, under the most favourable weather conditions. Mr. A. Middlemiss, Chairman of the Gore Branch, welcomed all present, some of whom had travelled some 60 miles south and 110 miles north. Mr. Henderson, of the West Otago Branch, spoke on behalf of that Branch.

Mr. Griffin addressed the assembly on the new Insurance Scheme for beekeepers issued by Lloyd's, London; after a very full explanation by the speaker, the scheme proved most popular among the beekeepers, as by the end of the day all available application forms were filled in.

Mr. Anderson gave a demonstration on section honey; and Mr. Drummond, of Romahapa, one on correct method of handling bees (very interesting to beginners). A scale hive record chart was shown by Mr. May, of Island Block. Mr. R. Stewart, Crookston, spoke on how to find a queen, and on "introducing" by a beginner. Mr. Heron showed how extracting supers can be removed by carbolic screens. After taking the supers off, Mr. Geo. Swanson, of Fleming, exhibited the new uncapping plane, the extracting being done by Mr. Steel's up-to-date electrical plant. Mr. Steel's new skimmer created a deal of interest.

The Apiary Instructor, Mr. D. S. Robinson, of Dunedin, demonstrated a queen-branding outfit. Mr. L. Irwin talked on New Zealand Honey Ltd., the Control Board, and the Government proposal for the marketing of honey.

Mr. Robinson expressed his appreciation of the exceptionally high standard of honey exhibited in the honey section at the Gore Winter Show, 1937, and hoped that it would be as good this year.

Lunch and afternoon tea were served, and appreciation of the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Steele was expressed with acclamation.

Waikato Field Day

The annual field day of the South Auckland Branch of the "National" will be held on March 2 (see advt.). Each year this event is eagerly awaited by beekeepers, and the social value and instructive nature of the function make it a red-letter day in the industry in the Waikato. An interesting programme has been arranged, and all beekeepers are invited.

The Successful Production of Honey—Part V

By P. A. Hillary

Previous Articles

[Previous articles in this series have dealt with:—Location of the apiary; honey plants; climate and soil; economic production of brood; need for strong colonies; hives, frames and combs; dry, airy hives; and freedom from bee diseases. In the September issue, the "Tree of Efficiency," was published, and in response to many requests, may appear again in the March issue.]

Uniform Standards of Strength

Efficiency in honey production depends upon several important factors:—

(a) Adequate supplies of materials for the production of brood and maintenance of life in the hive on a high level of comfort.

(b) Conditions in the hive that permit the greatest production of brood with the least expenditure of effort.

(c) The use by the beekeeper of methods that give the maximum production of brood at periods of critical importance.

(d) The retention of the full bee-strength in the hive during the honey-flow, with maximum storing activities.

(e) Storage room.

(f) Favourable weather.

(g) Efficient methods of harvesting the crop.

Given favourable weather, it is not necessary for any of the other factors, except (c), to be given more than reasonable attention to ensure a fair crop of honey. But, if (c) is neglected or subject to mismanagement, the crop decreases with an accelerated speed the further the brood production recedes from the standards set up.

Standards for Brood Production

The conditions in the hive must be of as high a standard as the beekeeper is capable of providing: Adequate stores of honey and pollen of high grade, good water supply, dry, airy hives, vigorous queens, warm location, etc. The ensuring of these conditions is the work of the autumnal period of the year, and, if they have been reasonably well attended to, the colonies will commence their new season with a spirit of achievement that must bring results.

The rearing of brood usually begins in August, and, at the first brief inspection in September, there should be patches of brood in three frames (equal to one full frame) these remarks apply to the Auckland-Waikato District, and dates would need to be adjusted for areas further north or south. A "patch" means an area of brood less than a man's hand; a "half-frame" means greater than a man's hand can cover, up to two-thirds of a frame; over that is termed a frame of brood.

The brood areas expand gradually on the three frames, but additional frames are not occupied until later in the month, when the young bees are becoming increasingly available for hive work. The dates, and frames of brood, in a good average colony would be as follows:—

TABLE I.

BROOD PRODUCTION STANDARDS

Date		Full Frames of Brood	
Sept.	1	1	✤
„	15	3½	✤✤✤✤
Oct.	1	6	✤✤✤✤✤✤
„	15	8	✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤
Nov.	1	11	✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤
„	15	12½	✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤
Dec.	1	14	✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤
„	15	11	✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤
Jan.	1	8	✤✤✤✤✤✤✤✤

These figures constitute a table of brood-production standards for two-storey brood chambers (10-frame Langstroth hives). There were colonies that readily exceeded these standards, but that merely proved that the standards were the minimum to be aimed at.

In an out apiary of 200 colonies (in 1931) I made a test to secure data for brood-production standards. I moderated my ordinary methods of manipulation, and worked the apiary upon the accepted methods used by the average beekeeper, only requeening in the autumn those colonies showing signs of failing, wintering in two-storeys, and moving the brood down into the bottom storey at each manipulation in the spring. Queen-excluders were used only above the double brood-chamber, and swarm-prevention methods consisted of clipping the wings of the queens and cutting-out queen-cells. The records showed the following interesting results, the colonies being divided into groups based on the number of full frames of brood in the hive on November 30th. Colonies from each group were taken and used in the table below:—

TABLE II.

TABLE OF CROP IN RELATION TO BROOD

Main Honey Flow: Dec. 15 to Jan. 21.

Hive No.	Frames of Brood Sept. 30.	Frames of Brood Oct. 30.	Frames of Brood Nov. 30.	Crop of Honey per Colony in lbs.
74	1	3	5	24
60	1	4	7	42
38	1½	5	7	36
48	1½	5	8	42
61	2	6	8	48
36	2	6	9	54
46	2½	7	10	66
50	2½	8	10	84
37	3	8	10	96
9	3	9	12	120
47	4	9	12	132
28	4	10	12	138
124	5	10	13	138
140	6	10	13	144
196	5	10	13	162
126	5	11	13	192
78	6	11	13	216
123	6	11	14	240
58	7	12	16	318
101	8	13	16	324
189	8	14	15	342
171*	6	8	8	354

*An exceptional colony.

The crop per colony, based on the number of full frames of brood (all the "patches" being estimated in terms of full frames), showed a remarkable increase in the stronger colonies. For example, No. 38 with 7 frames of brood gave 36lbs. crop equalling approximately 5.2 lbs per frame of brood; No. 189, with 15 frames of brood gave 344 lbs, or 23 lbs. approximately per frame of brood. Therefore, **the value PER FRAME of brood in terms of crop, increases with great rapidity as the total of frames of brood increases.**

It is not a payable business proposition to produce honey unless an average crop (over a period of 10 years) of at least 90 lbs. per colony is secured. Colonies producing less should be eliminated as production units, and treated as "hospital cases."

Taking the foregoing brood-crop record (Table II.) and omitting the colonies up to No. 50, the figures for No. 37 could be taken as a minimum. It then follows that 10 frames of brood indicate a crop of 100 lbs. under normal conditions. For each frame of brood above 10, the values increase enormously. This definitely illustrates that "crop depends upon maximum brood production at periods of critical importance."

Thus every effort of the beekeeper should be devoted to the production of brood at the maximum rate during the time of its maximum value. (This will be the subject of a later article.)

The colonies, in the brood-crop test, showing below 10 frames of brood were only allowed to exist as separate units for comparative purposes and in order to give a comprehensive table.

The hive No. 171 was quite exceptional. With an extremely low brood-count it seemed improbable that it would exceed 100 lbs. of crop, although it was strong in bees. As super after super of honey was taken away, however, my interest was aroused and I put the colony under close observation. I found very few dead bees around the hive. It proved difficult to account for the excellent bee-strength in view of the low-level provision for bee-replacement in the way of brood. Later in the season it became evident that the bees of this colony were very long-lived, as the bee strength remained much the same although the queen had greatly reduced her laying activities.

I took this queen as a breeder, and, in the following spring, requeened a few colonies in each of several apiaries with her daughters. These young queens performed equally as well as the mother, and it was only necessary to see tiered-up hives to be able to know they were headed by "Wilding" queens, as they were called.

Unfortunately, the bees were quite nasty-tempered, and in unfavourable weather gave the operator severe punishment. The attempt to breed out this fault, resulted in a drop in the crop without eliminating the bad temper. As I was too busy at the time to experiment further, I did not continue breeding from the "Wilding" queen.

Journal of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture has given further evidence of its progressiveness by remodelling the Journal of Agriculture and transforming it from a semi-scientific record into a splendid journal with practical, instructive articles that should appeal to every primary producer. The subscription has been reduced to 2/6 per annum. It is intended to improve the beekeeping section, and give it an instructional, informative value that will induce beekeepers to readily become subscribers. Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Publisher Dept. of Agriculture, Private Bag, Wellington.

Market and Crop Reports

Honey Crop Prospects

The Director of the Horticulture Division has received from the Apiary Instructors reports concerning the honey crop prospects at the end of January, 1938:—

Auckland.—Conditions are much the same as reported last month. The weather continues fine for extracting, and there is a fair possibility of the bees gathering a supply from Pennyroyal, for winter stores.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Hamilton.—The season was much earlier than usual and extracting operations commenced early in November. Suitable rainfall, mild to hot temperatures, and plenty of sunshine have brought about a prolonged flow of nectar, consequently crops are heavier than for some years past. In the Waikato and Waipa Counties especially, beekeepers in a large way have been unable to keep pace with the bees. At the time of writing, the flow has commenced to ease up, but a good tailingoff in the flow is expected.—T. S. Winter.

Hastings.—The ideal weather which prevailed during most of December and January changed to cooler conditions recently, when an exceptionally heavy fall of rain was experienced. A good season in Hawkes Bay, Poverty Bay and Wairarapa Districts, has eventuated and the bulk of this season's crop is fine quality honey.—L. Riesterer.

Palmerston North.—In almost all parts of the district, the average crop has been reached, and in some cases exceeded, with the prospects of the season continuing.

In some parts of the Manawatu a shortage of rain caused anxiety earlier in the month, but the nectar continued to come in. Further south in the Otaki and Hutt districts, the flow was slightly heavier.

Reports from North Taranaki are satisfactory, and point to a better crop than has been experienced for many years. The flow has everywhere been consistent, but with only occasional periods of rapidity. Clover is abundant in Central and South Taranaki, and heavy crops are anticipated.

Honey throughout the district is showing good qualities of colour and flavour.—H. F. Dodson.

Greymouth, West Coast. — The weather conditions throughout January were good, and much honey has been extracted. Average crops of honey are expected.

Nelson.—Some districts have suffered from the lack of rain, but there has been a good flowering of all pasture flowers: good crops of honey have been obtained.

Marlborough.—The continued dry weather has had detrimental effects on the clovers and pastures throughout the district. Light crops of honey are anticipated.—G. F. Page.

Christchurch.—Favourable weather has been experienced during the past month. Heavy rain for two days gave a normal fall for the period under review, and was followed by warm and settled conditions.

Swarming during the past month has been difficult to control. Bees, however, remain in good condition.

The season in Canterbury is proving an exceptionally good one, and some heavy crops will be extracted. The white clover is holding well; the secretion at the present time is excellent and promises to continue. Extracting is now general, and the yield in some apiaries is well above the average.—W. J. Fix.

Dunedin.—The present indications relative to the honey crop in the above districts are as follows:—North Otago: Fair, but below average. Central Otago: Good, about average. South Otago: Slightly below average. Southland: Fair, slightly below average.—D. S. Robinson.

Taranaki District—

The latest indications are for heavy crops generally throughout Taranaki. With the exception of a few days' Southerly "buster," a week ago, the weather in January was almost perfect. Clover is still plentiful but indications are that the main flow is over.

I notice in your November issue a quotation from the Bee World which states "A frame of brood costs 4½ to 5½lbs. of honey to produce." I think the writer is well out in his calculation. My colonies, wintered on 8 frames and about 20lbs. of honey, have no trouble in getting up to 6 frames of brood in the spring with up to half of their stores left, and they don't gather an ounce of honey here in the spring most seasons. My guess would be about 2lbs.

Honey Flow Daily Record

Mr. T. Barr, Brydone, Southland, writes on February 3rd: January has been a dry month with a lot of sunshine. The bees have been flying freely, but owing to a frost and the dry conditions the clover has passed its best. Although there has been no rain since the 8th of January, the bees are still bringing in honey. Four miles further south a heavy thunder storm with heavy rain was experienced on the 30th January, which will greatly assist beekeepers in that area.

Up till the 31st January, the scale hive has shown an increase of 190lbs; 114lbs have been extracted so far. On January 15th, a swarm issued from the scale hive and for comparison the swarm was not returned and a second set of scales was put under another hive about the same strength as No. 1 before it swarmed. 170lbs. has been extracted from this hive up to the end of January.

The following is the record of both hives:

No. 1 Hive.

Jan.	lbs.	Jan.	lbs.	Jan.	lbs.
1	8	12	12	22	0
2	11	13	7	23	0
3	2	14	5	24	0
4	3	15	0	25	2
5	2	16	2	26	0
6	0	17	9	27	3
7	0	18	0	28	3
8	0	19	0	29	2
9	0	20	6	30	2
10	0	21	9	31	2
11	0				

Swarm issued 15th Jan.

No. 2 Hive.

Jan.	lbs.	Jan.	lbs.
17	18	24	0
18	0	25	5
19	0	26	0
20	13	27	10
21	20	28	11
22	0	29	6
23	0	30	5
		31	5

No. 1 hive, which had swarmed, stored 40lbs. after swarming on January 15th until January 31st. No. 2 hive during the same period stored 93lbs. or two and a-third times as much.

Mr. H. R. Penny, of Okaiawa, Taranaki, forwards the following interesting comparison between the records of his scale hive during this season, and that of last year. The figures graphically illustrate the difference in the seasons.

	1936-37 Increase lbs.	1937-38 Increase lbs.
December 1 to 14	10	40
" 15 to 31	20	57
January 1 to 15	7	55
" 16 to 31	7	45
	Total 44	Total 197

Best days	1936-37 lbs.	Best days	1937-38 lbs.
Dec. 24	8	Dec. 6	8
Jan. 2	4	" 9	10
" 3	4	" 24	9
" 4	4	" 30	9
		Jan. 2	14
		" 11	8
		" 19	11
		" 21	8

ANNUAL

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of the

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BRANCH SECRETARIES:

North Auckland: Mr. H. R. Holdaway, Whangarei.
Auckland Central: Mr. H. E. Wattam, 14 Kenny Road, Remuera.
South Auckland: Mr. A. H. Davies, Pukeroro R.D., Hamilton.
Manawatu: Mr. G. D. Yorke, 25 Coley Street, Foxton.
Hawke's Bay: Miss D. M. Dalgleish, 1001 Frederick St., Hastings.
Taranaki: Mr. T. R. Nicholas, 3 Caledonia Street, Hawera.
South Canterbury: Mr. J. Forster, C/o. Washdyke P.O., South Canterbury.
North Otago: Mr. C. R. Paterson, Corriedale R.D., Oamaru.
West Otago: Mr. A. G. Stuart, Kelso, Otago.
Gore: Mr. J. McMeekin, Otama, Wendon, Gore.
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